

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Information Disclosure Statement

The PTOL 1449 of 05/09/2007 has been received, reviewed and considered.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see the remarks, filed 01/20/2009, with respect to claims 1, 3 and 6 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 35 USC 102(b) rejections of claims 1, 3, and 6 over JP '681 have been withdrawn.
2. Applicant's arguments see the remarks, filed 01/20/2009, with respect to claims 2, 3-12 and 14-15 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 35 USC 103(a) of claim 3-13 and 14-15 has been withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Scott Woodbury on June 1, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims: In claim 6, lines 10-11, after the word "crucible", please insert the phrase --, the reflection plate being physically separated from the raw material supply apparatus--.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1 and 3-32 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not teach nor render obvious the instantly claimed invention. There is no teaching in the art to perform the process and apparatus that is now claimed. The prior art not teach a method or apparatus for producing crystals wherein the crystals are grown from a liquefying raw material in a crucible retained in a furnace and slowly cooling the raw material in the crucible from below upward to produce the crystals, comprising a raw material supply apparatus placed above the crucible on a surface of a reflection plate placed above the crucible by heating, which liquefied the resupply raw material as a liquid into the crucible, as stated in the instant invention. There is no motivation in the art to change the prior art's teaching of to arrive at the instantly claimed process.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Felisa Hiteshew whose telephone number is (571) 272-1463. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays through Thursday from 5:30 AM to 4:00 PM with Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Mikhail Kornakov, can be reached on (571) 272-1414. The

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fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-1463.

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/Felisa C. Hiteshew/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1792